(b) whether the Karnataka Government had given permission to N.T.C. for the disposal of this surplus land;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to get the permission from Karnataka Government to dispose of the surplus land; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to utilise the amount realised from the sale of surplus land in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The total surplus land owned by the NTC Mills in the State of Karnataka is 177.82 acres.

(b) Government of Karnataka has not yet given permission under ULCR Act for sale of surplus land of NTC Mills.

(c) The matter has been taken up with the Government of Karnataka.

(d) The proceeds from sale of surplus lands of NTC Mills would be utilised for modernisation of the NTC Mills.

Development of Handloom Sector in N.E. Region

562. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered committee headed by a member of Planning Commission has recommended to the Centre a special package to assist the handloom sector in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereto;

(c) whether the Government have accepted all or any of the recommendations; and

(d) if so, the funds proposed to be earmarked for the purpose in the current and coming years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Committee has made special recommendations for the development of Handloom Sector in North-Eastern States for supporting in terms of training, Research & Development, input supplies, development of new designs, commercial production, Marketing, etc.

(c) The Government of India have accepted all the recommendations of the Committee.

(d) The releases of funds will be based on the viable proposals received from North-Eastern States.

Export of Caesia and Clovee

563. SHRI MULLAPALIY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that large quantities of cloves and cassia are being imported into our country legally and illegally;

(b) whether any representation has been received from UPASI in this regard;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expand and develop cloves and cassia cultivation as also their export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Details of imports of cloves and cassia during the last 3 years are given below:-

(Qty. in MT, Value in Rs. Crores)

Items	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96 (P)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Cloves extracted	3452	7.44	1290	3.38	1892	5.33
Cloves not extracted	967	2.24	1217	3.24	1393	4.12
Cassia	5891	22.65	650	2.62	1254	5.19

(P) Provisional

Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to increase the production and productivity of tree spices including clove & cassia, the following programmes have been implemented through the State Horticulture-Argiculture Departments, during VIII Plan under Integrated Programme for Development of Spices with cent percent central assistance:-

1. Production of quality planting materials - 14 lakhs
2. Establishment of demonstration Plots in the farmers' field to encourage the cultivation on scientific lines - 4500 plots

The above programmes are also continuing in 1997-98.